

across the state must utilize and benefit from the successes and avoid the pitfalls and failures that other jurisdictions have encountered in their past efforts to confront and mitigate gangs and gang activities.

Based on this research, prior data and the existing gang literature the following policy recommendations are offered in an effort to help North Carolina's communities address their respective gang issues in a balanced and more informed fashion.

1. Emphasize the necessity of strong community planning, collaboration and coordination.
2. Gang programs should be comprehensive in scope and include suppression, prevention and intervention components.
3. Funding for gang programs should be proactive and data driven.
4. Improve both the quality and quantity of program data.
5. Utilize and incorporate effective practices and evidence based knowledge into program design.
6. Explore funding opportunities for fully expanding and implementing GangNet across the entire state and for its recurring operations.